

Committee on Resources

Testimony

STATEMENT by JeanClaude P. Holly, Jr.

National Parks & Public Lands

H.R. 2989

February 5, 1998

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Mr. Chairman & Members of the Subcommittee:

Good morning to you all! My name is JeanClaude Holly, Jr. (A.k.a. John) and I am a graduate alumnus, a Trustee on the National Board and a Business Committee member at St. Judes Ranch for Children.

Let me begin by saying thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate at this hearing regarding a matter that is a LIFE EXPERIENCE for me. Twenty-one plus years ago I was placed at St. Judes Ranch for Children (SJRC) because I felt and believed that my family and society had given up on me, and to be candid with you I had also decided to give up on them, and was on the course of giving up on myself. Fortunately for me, SJRC and Farther Ward were there to give me a new start, a place to rest, heal and the resources I needed to begin to build a positive productive future for myself.

SJRC was established in 1966 when the City of Boulder City, Nevada decided to INVEST IN THE VISION of Farther Adams and four Anglican Nuns from England and granted them the of 40 acres that is now the national headquarters of this operation. Had that not been the case, I seriously doubt I would be before your committee today and participating in the process which most of our citizenry seem to lack faith in. Also, as you can see, the St. Judes Program is a continuous process that does not end or terminates when a family member leaves or graduate from our home. It continues at various personal levels.

Therefore, I would like to state it is an honor and a privilege for me to come before this body of decision makers and to boldly ask you all to INVEST in the faceless nameless children who are out there at this very minute, like I was. Give them the same opportunity to also benefit from the St. Judes Experience like the numerous alumni who are now positive productive tax paying members of our society. You can do this by voting YES on H.R. 2989 today, and who knows what the return on that investment will yield in the foreseeable future. My bias allows me to believe that the unimaginable, like today, is very realistic.

I thank you all again, for your invitation, time and attention, and I am at your disposal to entertain and answer your concerns regarding this very personal issue at this time.

Sincerely yours,

JeanClaude P. Holly, Jr.

Attachment